

REMARKS

Claims 1, 2-8, 10, 11, 13-41 remain in the case, and the independent claims (1, 21, 25, 29, 33 and 39), as objected to by the Examiner, have been amended to remove the Examiner's objection to new matter.

The Examiner has objected to the title as being non-descriptive, and a new title has been supplied in accordance with the Examiner's suggestion.

The Examiner has objected to the word "inlaid" as introducing new matter into the disclosure.

This objection and the rejections based upon it are respectfully traversed. Nevertheless, since the specific word "inlaid" does not appear in the specification, it has been removed.

The Examiner's attention is respectfully drawn to the specification page 33, line 1 through page 34, line 16. The Examiner will note that at line 20 on page 33 and line 23, the word "insert" or the alternative "place into" which is the equivalent of "insert" are used to describe the actions of inserting the tags and the comments into the completed HTML document file. Similarly at page 34, line 2 it is the word "insert" that is used there and at line 4. As shown at line 7 of page 34, it is a collection of files that is reviewed, i.e., the files are combined into a single viewable file which contains the comments displayed within the documents for review by the author or other users.

The Examiner has also rejected Claims 1, 10, 16-20, 33 and 40 under 35 USC 103(a) as being unpatentable over Day and Merritt and Claims 2-8, 11, 13-15, 21-32, 34-38, 39 and 41 as obvious over Day, Merritt and Tran.

These rejections are respectfully traversed in view of the remarks which follow.

The focus of this invention, as alluded to in the remarks above, is on the insertion of comments into a markup file where comments are distinguished from the comment display markers themselves (i.e., the links or review buttons as they are called by Day) or as distinct from the glyphs or marks as they are called by Merritt.

Turning to Day, there are some notable differences between Day and the instantly claimed invention. Day describes that during initial processing, which occurs prior to distribution of a document for review, review buttons are inserted into the document. A reviewer, after selecting or activating a review button, prompts the display of a pop-up window to which the user may or may not make comments. This is shown at column 7, lines 42-43 of Day. The pop-up window may provide either a mail interface or a comment pop-up interface, column 8, lines 22-25 and 40-43. These are important distinctions over the presently claimed invention which does not utilize review buttons to bring up for review the comments entered by others but which displays the comments themselves in context. The use of a mail interface results in comments forming part of an email message that is sent to the author or other designated reviewer (Day column 8, lines 30-33). That is, a reviewer enters a comment in an email or pop-up window that is sent via electronic mail to the author or another reviewer. Therefore, Day does not describe or teach that the comment entered through the mail interface forms a part of the document being reviewed. In fact, Day describes a mail function, i.e. a well known email system, which does not operate to include the comments or the body of the email into any other document being reviewed. Hence, the use of email or pop-up system does not result in a document under review being altered to include the comments.

The use of a comment pop-up interface does allow users to comment regarding portions of the document designated by the author and after entry of comments the pop-up window is

closed. The comments are thus entered by the user without altering the document 130. The comments are not part of the document itself but instead are associated with the document by appropriate identification links. See Day column 8, lines 46-60. This is distinctly different from the presently claimed invention.

In the presently claimed invention, a single hypertext document is created from the source file which is the document being reviewed, and the comments previously made by one or more reviewers are included. That is, comments stored in a comment file are made to form a part of the dynamically generated hypertext document transmitted for the reviewer to display on his browser. See page 33 and 34 as identified further in these remarks. The comment file and the document being reviewed are effectively combined or merged into a single hypertext document that is transmitted to a user in the invention as claimed. The comments, while represented and accessed or viewed by a comment display marker, are more quickly accessed, that is viewed, by their inclusion into the single hypertext document. Moreover, additional comments will result in a dynamic regeneration of the hypertext document, thus incorporating these additional comments into the document.

In contrast, the primary reference, Day, does not teach, describe or even suggest inclusion of the comments made by the reviewers into the document being reviewed. In fact, Day teaches away from inclusion of comments and thus the alteration of the document being reviewed in column 8, lines 46-60.

In summary, Day does not describe, teach or suggest the "means for displaying a hypertext document to a user for display" where the hypertext document corresponds to the source file and includes or incorporates portions corresponding to one or more sets of comments as required by Applicants' Claim 1. Similarly, Day does not describe, teach or suggest the generating of a hypertext document from a markup file corresponding to a reviewer selected

source file and from the associated comment file and including portions corresponding to one or more of a set of comments as required by Applicants' Claim 21.

Similar arguments apply to all of the independent claims 1, 21, 25, 29, 33, and 39.

Turning to Merritt, what is described is a fundamentally different invention from that described in claimed Applicants' specification. Merritt describes the generation of a primary image (effectively a screen capture) to which a secondary image (the glyph or mark) is superimposed. The secondary image is superimposed through the use of coordinates determined as a result of mouse pointer location. Although Merritt is somewhat unclear on how the primary and secondary images are transmitted, it is suggested that the primary image, the secondary image and the annotations do remain separate and are not merged into a single document. See column 9, lines 57-60 where transmitting data to the user is described as routing the primary image, the secondary image and annotations which appears to teach separate entities. And in column 10, lines 4-8 where a similar process is described as the primary image or images and its associated components include glyphs and marks and annotations and the routing list are transmitted to each user.

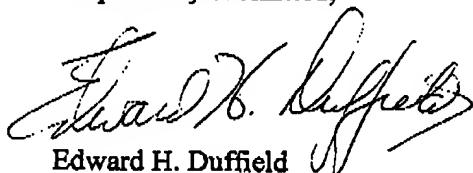
Based on the clear teaching of Merritt, Merritt fails to suggest, teach or describe creating a single document that includes the file being reviewed together with the marks, glyphs or any comments made thereto the annotations (into a single document). Merritt arguably teaches away from such a merging of components of the overall document.

In view of the foregoing it is respectfully submitted that neither Merritt nor Day nor any combination of Merritt and Day describe, teach or suggest the creation of a single, unified hypertext document that includes the text being reviewed, the comment display markers and the comments themselves into a single hypertext document.

The Examiner has further cited Tran for support of a linked list element included in various claims. The use of link lists is well known and is not specifically germane to the obviousness of the present invention. Tran fails to disclose the merging of the comment file and the underlying file into a single hypertext document.

In view of the foregoing amendment and discussion it is respectfully submitted that the claims are not obvious over the references, wherefore a reconsideration of the rejection on their merits and a withdrawal thereof are respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,



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Version with Markings to Show Changes Made

In the Title:

The title has been changed as follows:

Web-Based File Review System [for Displaying Comments Inlaid in a Document]
Utilizing Source and Comment Files.

In the Abstract:

The abstract has been changed as follows:

A system for reviewing files which permits comments to be inserted in files to be viewed with a hypertext browser. When the hypertext mark-up language employed is HTML, text files are converted to an HTML representation. An HTML file is represented by a linked list of objects. Comment insertion markers and comment display objects are inserted at predefined points in the HTML linked list representation. The linked list is stored as a binary file and has a comment file associated with it. Access to the HTML file by reviewers and authors causes the regeneration of the HTML document by a Common Gateway Interface which recreates the linked list representation of the document from the binary file and which then generates HTML code from the linked list. Comments may be entered by reviewers working in parallel on the HTML document. Comments are displayed [inlaid] as inserted at the next regeneration of the HTML document by the system.

In the Claims:

Claim 1 has been amended as follows:

1. (twice amended) A file review system for storing and managing a set of comments associated with a source file, comprising means for accepting data from the source file and storing a representation of the source file as a markup file, means for creating a comment file containing data representing the set of comments associated with the source file, means for accepting new comments for inclusion in the set of comments associated with the source file and for updating the comment file to correspond to the complete set of comments, means for generating a combined hypertext document from the markup file and from the comment file, the hypertext document corresponding to the source file and including portions corresponding to one or more of the set of comments associated with the source file, means for communicating the hypertext document to a browser for [displaying said inlaid comments] display.

Claim 21 has been amended as follows:

21. (twice amended) A web-based file review system for storing and managing comments from a plurality of reviewers, the comments being associated with one or more webs of source files, comprising

a parser to parse a selected one of the set of source files into a linked list of objects corresponding to a hypertext representation of the selected source file, the linked list further comprising comment insertion objects and comment display objects, the parser writing the linked list of objects to a binary markup file representing the linked list of objects and corresponding to the selected one of the set of source files, each comment display object being capable of being associated with one or more comments,

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a set of comment files, each comment file being associated with one of the set of source files and comprising data representing comments associated with the one of the set of source files,

common gateway interface program code means for accepting new comments for inclusion in the set of comments associated with a reviewer-defined source file and for updating the associated comment file,

common gateway interface program code means for generating a hypertext document from a markup file corresponding to reviewer-selected source file and from the associated comment file, the hypertext document corresponding to the reviewer-selected source file and

the hypertext document including portions corresponding to one or more of the set of comments associated with the reviewer-selected source file, the hypertext data for each portion relating to a comment to be displayed being defined by the associated comment display object,

the hypertext document selectively including hypertext links representing comment insertion objects, the hypertext links providing reviewers with forms for reviewer entry of comments,

the hypertext document selectively including hypertext data for calling the common gateway interface program for generating a hypertext document and the hypertext document selectively including hypertext data for calling the common gateway interface program for accepting new comments,

means for communicating the hypertext document to a browser for [displaying said inlaid comments] display.

Claim 25 has been amended as follows:

25. (twice amended) An article of manufacture comprising:
a computer usable medium having computer readable program code means embodied therein for causing the storage and management of comments in a web-based file review system, the comments being from a plurality of reviewers, and being associated with one or more webs of source files, the computer readable program code means in the article of manufacture comprising

computer readable program code means for causing a computer to parse a selected one of the set of source files into a linked list of objects corresponding to a hypertext representation of the selected source file, the linked list further comprising comment insertion objects and comment display objects, the parser writing the linked list of objects to a binary markup file representing the linked list of objects and corresponding to the selected one of the set of source files, each comment display object being capable of being associated with one or more comments,

computer readable program code means for causing the computer to create and manage a set of comment files, each comment file being associated with a one of the set of source files and comprising data representing comments associated with the one of the set of source files,

computer readable program code means for causing the computer to accept new comments for inclusion in the set of comments associated with a reviewer-defined source file and to update the associated comment file,

computer readable program code means for causing the computer to generate a hypertext document from a markup file corresponding to reviewer-selected source file and from the associated comment file, the hypertext document corresponding to the reviewer-selected source file and

the hypertext document including portions corresponding to one or more of the set of comments associated with the reviewer-selected source file, the hypertext data for each portion relating to a comment to be displayed being defined by the associated comment display object,

the hypertext document selectively including hypertext links representing comment insertion objects, the hypertext links providing reviewers with forms for reviewer entry of comments,

the hypertext document selectively including hypertext data for calling the common gateway interface program for generating a hypertext document and the hypertext document selectively including hypertext data for calling the common gateway interface program for accepting new comments,

computer readable program code means for communicating the hypertext document to a browser for [displaying said inlaid comments] display.

Claim 29 has been amended as follows:

29. (twice amended) A computer program product for use with a hypertext server, the computer program product comprising:
a computer usable medium having computer readable program code means embodied in the medium for causing the storage and management of comments in a web-based file

review system, the comments being from a plurality of reviewers, and being associated with one or more webs of source files, the computer program product having:

computer readable program code means for causing a computer to parse a selected one of the set of source files into a linked list of objects corresponding to a hypertext representation of the selected source file, the linked list further comprising comment insertion objects and comment display objects, the parser writing the linked list of objects to a binary markup file representing the linked list of objects and corresponding to the selected one of the set of source files, each comment display object being capable of being associated with one or more comments,

computer readable program code means for causing the computer to create and manage a set of comment files, each comment file being associated with a one of the set of source files and comprising data representing comments associated with the one of the set of source files,

computer readable program code means for causing the computer to accept new comments for inclusion in the set of comments associated with a reviewer-defined source file and to update the associated comment file,

computer readable program code means for causing the computer to generate a hypertext document from a markup file corresponding to reviewer-selected source file and from the associated comment file, the hypertext document corresponding to the reviewer-selected source file and

the hypertext document including portions corresponding to one or more of the set of comments associated with the reviewer-selected source file, the hypertext data for each portion relating to a comment to be displayed being defined by the associated

comment display object,

the hypertext document selectively including hypertext links representing comment insertion objects, the hypertext links providing reviewers with forms for reviewer entry of comments,

the hypertext document selectively including hypertext data for calling the common gateway interface program for generating a hypertext document and the hypertext document selectively including hypertext data for calling the common gateway interface program for accepting new comments,

computer readable program code means for causing the computer to communicate the hypertext document to a browser for [displaying said inlaid comments] display.

Claim 33 has been amended as follows:

33. (twice amended) A method of storing and managing a set of comments associated with a source file, in a file review system, the method comprising the steps of

accepting data from the source file and storing a representation of the source file as a markup file,

creating a comment file containing data representing the set of comments associated with the source file,

responding to user input to accept new comments for inclusion in the set of comments associated with the source file and updating the comment file to correspond to the complete set of comments,

responding to user input to dynamically generate a hypertext document from the markup file and from the comment file, the hypertext document corresponding to the source file and including portions corresponding to one or more of the set of comments associated with the source file,

communicating the hypertext document to a browser for [displaying said inlaid comments] display.

Claim 39 has been amended as follows:

39. (twice amended) A method for storing and managing comments in a web-based file review system, the comments being from a plurality of reviewers and being associated with one or more webs of source files, comprising the steps of

parsing a selected one of the set of source files into a linked list of objects corresponding to a hypertext representation of the selected source file, the linked list further comprising comment insertion objects and comment display objects, the parser writing the linked list of objects to a binary markup file representing the linked list of objects and corresponding to the selected one of the set of source files, each comment display object being capable of being associated with one or more comments,

on review request, accepting new comments for inclusion in the set of comments associated with a reviewer-defined source file and for updating an associated comment file, the comment file being associated with a one of the set of source files and comprising data representing comments associated with the one of the set of source file,

dynamically generating a hypertext document from a markup file corresponding to reviewer-selected source file and from the associated comment file, the hypertext document corresponding to the reviewer-selected source file and

the hypertext document including portions corresponding to one or more of the set of comments associated with the reviewer-selected source file, the hypertext data for each portion relating to a comment to be displayed being defined by the associated comment display object,

the hypertext document selectively including hypertext links representing comment insertion objects, the hypertext links providing reviewers with forms for reviewer entry of comments,

the hypertext document selectively including hypertext data for calling the common gateway interface program for generating a hypertext document and the hypertext document selectively including hypertext data for calling the common gateway interface program for accepting new comments,

communicating the hypertext document to a browser for [displaying said inlaid comments] display.